

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY! This is a big day for the 70.1 million fathers in America. Did you know Father's Day is celebrated on the third Sunday in June, but not everywhere? In Spain and Portugal, for instance, fathers are honored March 19 on St. Joseph's Day.

GAZEBO EXPRESS



YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • JUNE 2015

THEATRE BOARD ROLLS OUT TIMELINE

A full-court press is on to retrofit the vintage Town Theatre to restore its beauty and function. There are three organizations working on the project with an ambitious plan to reopen the theatre late summer or early fall 2016 – the Redevelopment Commission, Theatre Board and Highland Main Street.

REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION



The Redevelopment Commission has taken charge of the bricks-and-mortar. Through their efforts, the theatre has been cleaned out and the ceiling removed. Next up: a decision on the roof and whether it will be better to replace the entire roof or damaged sections. Interior and facade construction is slated to begin in late fall of this year.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



The Theatre Board has begun the process of establishing a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation for theatre operations. Over the next six months, the group will be establishing operational rules, unveiling a website, planning additional fund-raisers and creating a job description for a theatre director and theatre assistant.

MAIN STREET VOLUNTEERS



Highland Main Street volunteers are working to increase theatre memberships, recruiting volunteers to assist with theatre operations and researching grant opportunities to reduce the town's share of the construction and operational costs. Want to volunteer? Call Cecile Petro at (219) 972-7598 or email cpetro@highland.in.gov.

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!



The Membership Committee is halfway to their goal of signing up 200 Founding Members by the end of June. If you haven't yet signed up, please consider becoming a member. Levels begin at \$20. The Clerk-Treasurer's office, 3333 Ridge Road, is accepting payments or download a membership form at www.highland.in.gov.

SPECIAL PATROLS TO CRACKDOWN ON SPEEDERS

Drivers who press their pedals a little too close to the metal through Highland Grove or Ultra shopping plazas need to mind their RPM's because police already are – or soon will.

The Highland Town Council passed legislation in May to create special patrol zones at Highland Grove and plan to institute the same at Ultra Plaza as soon as an agreement is struck between the town and owners of the shopping center.

Once considered off-limits to law enforcement, Town Council President Mark Herak said the owners of both malls have approached the town with a request that police patrols be instituted along the plaza thoroughfares.

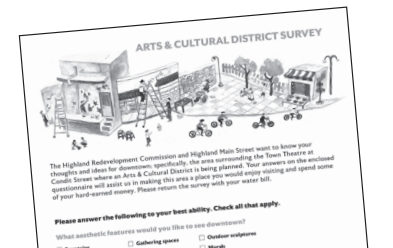
"We agreed to enter into this partnership out of safety concerns," Herak said. "Take large numbers of pedestrians carrying packages and pushing carts and strollers along with high traffic volumes and you have a situation that needs to be watched. Add in a few speeding drivers and you have a recipe for disaster."

Speeding and stop sign enforcement will not involve new patrols. Police already assigned to the mall to protect against shoplifters and auto theft will add the duties to their routine patrols.

The malls will pay an hourly patrol rate of \$26, \$23.25 of which is paid to the officer. The balance covers wear-and-tear on police vehicles. 🐾

ARTS DISTRICT SURVEY

The Highland Redevelopment Commission and Highland Main Street want to know your thoughts and ideas for downtown; specifically, the area surrounding the Town Theatre at Condit Street where an Arts & Cultural District is being planned. Your answers on the enclosed questionnaire will assist us in making this area a place you would enjoy visiting and spend some of your hard-earned money. Please return the survey with your water bill.



CANCER FUND-RAISER

Ann Bienko has spent a lifetime giving to others but now she needs the community's help. The lifelong Highland resident will be unable to work while she battles a cancer diagnosis. Friends have organized a fund-raiser to assist with health insurance and medical expenses.

Donate online at www.giveforward.com/fundraiser/mjn8 or by check at Centier Bank in Bienko's name.

QUESTIONS? Call Team Leader Kim Anderson-Mantel at (219) 306-5749.



... TOWN TICKER ...

Ready to Live Mas? Check out [Highland's new Taco Bell](#) scheduled to open this month in the Meijer Plaza. ...The [Arsh Group Inc.](#) has been hired for \$42,045 to update [Highland's zoning and subdivision codebook](#), which is expected to be approved this year. ... [Highland Parks and Recreation](#) has your ticket to summer fun: wild water slides and gravity-defying coasters at [Six Flags Great America](#) in Gurnee, IL. Tickets are \$42.50 for general admission and \$75 for a season pass.

SIDEWALK PROGRAM

In conjunction with the town's summer sidewalk replacement program, the Town Council has secured an additional \$50,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds to assist low-to-moderate income homeowners in replacing dilapidated, heaving or crumbling concrete.

If your sidewalk panels need replacing, pick up a form and guidelines at the Clerk-Treasurer's office, 3333 Ridge Road, to see if you qualify for the CDBG or conventional sidewalk replacement programs.

INFO: Visit the town website at www.highland.in.gov or call Highland Public Works at (219) 972-5069.

NEW TRAFFIC LIGHT

The Council approved \$90,000 for a traffic light near the fire station on 45th Street and \$40,000 for new firefighter turnout gear. The new light will only activate when firetrucks are present.



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NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

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NEW CHAMBER CHALLENGE TESTS MEMORY, HAND-EYE COORDINATION

Grab the family or your best gal – or guy – pals along with one fully charged cell phone and join the first-ever Chamber Challenge!

Hosted by the Highland Chamber and its member businesses, this event is an eclectic mix of tasks that test your knowledge of Highland geography, as well as your hand-eye coordination, problem-solving skills and trivia while you and your team enjoy a day around town in the good old summertime.

Teams are comprised of two or more participants, at least one of whom must be 18.

The top three teams that complete the most challenges in a timely manner will be declared the winners. There is a medal reserved for every team that finishes.

The challenge begins and ends at Main Square Park. In between, the challenge borders are the Little Calumet River on the north, Liable Road on the east, 45th Street on the south and Indianapolis Boulevard on the west. 🐦



ABOUT THE EVENT

The Chamber Challenge is a fun, family-friendly challenge that tests your memory, hand-eye coordination, problem-solving skills and your knowledge of places and businesses in the Town of Highland. Run, walk or bike with your team, visiting Chamber Member businesses and completing simple and fun tasks at each stop.

WHEN: 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, **JUNE 20**

WHERE: Main Square Park

INFO: Call the chamber at (219) 923-3666 or visit us online at www.highlandchamber.com.

REGISTRATION

Sign up online at www.signmeup.com/108226 or stop by the Highland Chamber of Commerce at 8536 Highway Avenue in downtown Highland.



HIGHLAND RENEWS PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENTS

New auto dealerships and restaurants, expanded parts supply houses, even a corporate headquarters are building the town's business corridors – thanks in no small part to the town's property tax abatement program.

In exchange for an agreement with the town to phase in property taxes for 10 years on the improvements to the parcels, Highland gets assurances from business owners that they will hire a minimum number of employees and invest in their buildings. The result has been an increasingly robust business community.

“We work with potential and existing businesses to let them know what our expectations are in

exchange for a tax abatement,” Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro said.

“We revisit the businesses each year to guarantee that all terms are being met before renewing the abatement for the following year. This program has been effective in repurposing shuttered buildings and keeping our store fronts filled. Each business that received tax abatement has been an asset to the community.”

In May, the Council approved renewing abatements for Circle GMC/Buick, Strack & Van Til and Reliable Parts, long known as Bell Parts Supply. In April, abatements were renewed for Culver's Restaurant and Highland Volkswagen. 🐦

BABE RUTH BOOMING

There is a buzz at the north end ballfields that has nothing to do with bees.

The group of teenagers, who decided to give a first-year effort to reignite Babe Ruth Baseball in 2014, have returned in force, a confident group that fields eight teams with a full complement of players that range in age from 13-19.

League President Dan Vassar, who is also a Town Councilman, said the rebuilding effort could not have happened if not for the eagerness of Highland teens to play ball, partnered with parental and local business support.

"I felt we owed these kids a positive place to land if they still wanted to play baseball after their Little League careers were complete," he said. "Thankfully, many weren't willing to hang up their cleats and were happy for the opportunity."

From 33 players in 2013 to 108 last year and 113 this season, the league was rebuilt while the fields were being refurbished.

"Babe Ruth has had a long and storied history in Highland," Vassar said. "I was fortunate enough to play during the league's heyday. I wanted to give these kids that kind of opportunity and a quality place to play ball."

CHARITY SOFTBALL GAME

Come out and cheer on our Highland Police Department as they take on the Dyer, Griffith and Munster in the 3rd Annual Charity Softball Tournament.

The event features softball, door prizes, DJ, police/fire vehicles, moonwalk, concessions and blood drive. All proceeds benefit the Cancer Resource Centre. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased in the front lobby of the Munster Police Department or from any of the participating players.

WHEN: 1:30 p.m. Sunday, **JUNE 14**

WHERE: Munster Community Park, 8549 Lions Club Drive, Munster

INFO: Call Corporal Shawn Anderson at the Highland Police Department, (219) 838-3181, ext. 4074.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR

Learn how maintaining balance between eight core components — from the spiritual, social and emotional, to the financial, physical, intellectual, environmental and occupational — makes for happier individuals and families. The event includes one-on-one consultations, demos and giveaways.

WHEN: 6:30 p.m. Thursday, **JUNE 18**

WHERE: Wicker Park Social Center

ADMISSION: Free

INFO: Call (219) 803-0659.

ATHLETICS GOLF OUTING

It's time to register for the 4th Annual Highland Athletic Department golf outing. Proceeds benefit the entire Highland Athletic Department.

WHEN: noon Saturday, **JULY 13**

WHERE: Scherwood Golf Course in Schererville

FEE: \$100 person/\$400 foursome includes golf, lunch and dinner.

REGISTRATION: Deadline **JUNE 30**

INFO: Call Athletic Director Ken Bye at (219) 922-5611 or email kbye@highland.k12.in.us.

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VISITOR	2	0	4	0	0	7	0	1	0	0	1	4	9	1
HOME	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	8	6	2

OUR SEASON

Find game schedules, season photos, fund-raising efforts and Babe Ruth TV at highland.baberuthonline.com.

QUESTIONS? Call Babe Ruth League President Dan Vassar at (219) 924-1945 or e-mail highlandbaberuth@yahoo.com.



FIRST TEE OFFERING GOLF CLASSES AT WICKER PARK

The First Tee of Hammond is offering youth golf classes at Wicker Memorial Park this summer.

The local chapter, which is affiliated with the international The First Tee, aims to positively impact the lives of young people by providing educational programs based on nine core values that promote character development, leadership opportunities, life-enhancing values and healthy choices through the game of golf.

Founded nationally in 1997 by the World Golf Foundation, the Hammond chapter formed with the completion of Lost Marsh Golf Course, a par-three course that opened in 1999. The First Tee has 180 chapters in the United States and three international locations in Canada, Ireland and New Zealand.

The organization is credited with helping children improve confidence, gain social skills and increase diversity appreciation.

HOW TO REGISTER

Registration is open for children ages 5-11 and children 12-17.

WHEN: Tuesdays afternoons and Friday mornings beginning **JUNE 16**

WHERE: Wicker Memorial Park

FEE: Player lessons are \$50 per six-week session. Par lessons are \$55.

INFO: Call (219) 228-2528, email info@thefirstteehammond.org or visit the website at thefirstteehammond.org.



ATTEND THE FESTIVAL

The Fourth of July Festival kicks off at Main Square Park and features ...

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

FESTIVAL:	5 - 10 PM
WRISTBANDS:	\$20 from 5 - 10 PM
5:30 - 7 PM	Got Issues
7:30 - 9:30 PM	Hessville Star

THURSDAY, JULY 2

FESTIVAL:	5 PM - midnight
WRISTBANDS:	\$20 from 5 - 10 PM
5:30 - 7 PM	TBD
7:30 - 9 PM	Rising Dawn
9:30 - 11:30 PM	The Unstoppables

FRIDAY, JULY 3

FESTIVAL:	1 PM - midnight
1 - 3 PM	Children's entertainment
4:30 - 6 PM	R&B Daddy's
8 - 9 PM	TBD
9:30 - 11:30 PM	The Hat Guys

SATURDAY, JULY 4

FESTIVAL:	1 PM - midnight
WRISTBANDS:	\$20 from 1 - 5 PM
2 - 3:30 PM	Children's entertainment
4:30 - 6 PM	Frank & Munde
7 - 8:30 PM	Nomad Planets
9:30 - 11:30 PM	Mr. Funnyman

SUNDAY, JULY 5

FESTIVAL:	1 - 10 PM
WRISTBANDS:	\$20 from 1 - 5 PM
LAST BLAST:	\$15 from 6-10 PM
1:30 - 3 PM	Ed Pakan
4 - 6 PM	New Element
7:30 - 9:30 PM	Tonal Attitude

Look around town for \$2 discount wristband coupons.

INFO: Call Festival Coordinator Kelly Bridges at (219) 670-0764.

ENJOY THE FIREWORKS

Grab a blanket or your favorite lawn chair and join us for Highland's fireworks display at 9 p.m. July 4 at Homestead Park.

KNOW THE RULES

Fireworks are allowed between 5 p.m. and two hours after sunset June 29 through July 9. The exception is July 4 between 10 a.m. and midnight. "Fireworks can be dangerous," Police Chief Pete Hojnicky said. "Take every precaution to stay safe."

RUN THE MILE

The All-American Mile Run, sponsored by First Financial Bank, kicks off the Twilight Independence Day Parade. All participants receive a dry-fit T-shirt. Entry forms are available at Lincoln Center. Register race day at the School Administration Building from 5 to 6:15 p.m. Open to all age groups, the race begins at 6:30 p.m. July 3 at 40th Street and Kennedy Avenue. The fee is \$10 through July 1 and \$15 on race day.

TOP PRIZES: Males with the fastest sub 4-min mile and females with the fastest sub 5-min mile win a \$250 prize.

INFO: (219) 838-0114 or highlandparks.org.

WATCH THE PARADE

This year's Fourth of July twilight parade begins at 6:30 p.m. July 3 at St. James the Less Catholic Church (45th and Kennedy), continues north on Kennedy to Highway Avenue and east along Highway to the park. A kiddie parade begins 12:45 p.m. July 4 in the parking lot across from Traditions.

INFO: For parade info, call Erica Wolak at (219) 718-1610. For Kiddie Parade info, call Elmo Parlor (219) 923-8959.

RED HOT TENNIS CAMP

Learn proper tennis techniques from instructors Steve and Ofelia. Steve is a longtime USPTR tennis pro at Match Point and head coach at Calumet College. Ofelia is a USPTR tennis pro at Match Point, assistant girls tennis coach at Highland High School and assistant coach at Calumet College. Camp is open to boys and girls 5 to 18 years old. Dress comfortably and bring your own tennis racquet and water. All participants receive a camp T-shirt!

SESSION 1: Monday - Thursday, **JUNE 8 - 25**

SESSION 2: Monday - Thursday, **JULY 6 - 23**

WHEN: 8 to 9:30 a.m. or 9:30 to 11 a.m.

WHERE: Highland High School tennis courts
FEES: \$125/\$135 per 3 week session; \$85/\$95 per 2 week session; \$45/\$50 for 1 week.

ACTIVITY CODE: 160001

INFO: (219) 838-0114 or highlandparks.org.

SOUNDS OF SUMMER

Sultry skies and oh-so-warm evening temperatures lend themselves to spending time outdoors. Grab a comfy lawn chair and your favorite bug spray and head to Main Square for Highland Park's summer concert series.

JUNE 11: Neverly Brothers - *rock 'n' roll*

JUNE 18: Oscar and the Majestics - *garage rock*

JUNE 25: BMR4 - *straight-ahead jazz / funk*

JULY 9: Dan Mateja & the IPA Tribute Band - *legendary polka music*

JULY 16: Fast Eddie & The Corvettes - *50s-70s*

WHEN: 7 to 9 p.m.

WHERE: Main Square Park Gazebo

NOTE: In the event of inclement weather, concerts will be held in the Lincoln Community Center Fieldhouse. Please bring your own chair.

INFO: (219) 838-0114 or highlandparks.org.

MOVIES IN THE PARK

Join Highland Parks and Recreation for an evening in the park to sit back, relax and watch "Big Hero 6" on the big screen. The concession stand will sell popcorn and fountain drinks. Bring a blanket or comfortable lawn chair. If it rains, the movie will be shown indoors at the Lincoln Community Center Fieldhouse.

WHEN: Dusk **JUNE 12**

WHERE: Main Square Park

INFO: (219) 838-0114 or highlandparks.org.

OUTDOOR STREET MARKET

Support local businesses and enjoy the warm summer weather at the annual street market featuring local produce and artisanal goods.

WHEN: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays, **JUNE 6 - OCT. 17.** Off **JULY 4.** Seasonal vendors only **AUGUST 15.**

WHERE: Main Square Park

VENDOR FEES: \$21.40 (\$5.35 for electric) weekly, \$85.60 (\$160.05 for electric) 8-week rate, \$171.20 (\$21.04 for electric) seasonal.
NOTE: Tables, chairs, cords are not provided.

INFO: (219) 838-0114 or highlandparks.org.